

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SEOUL 04142 192327Z
ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 PM-03 INR-05 CIAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1124
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CINCUNC

S E C R E T SEOUL 4142

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PINR, KN, KS, US
SUBJECT: SALVAGE OF NORTH KOREAN INFILTRATION BOAT

1. ROK NAVY ON MAY 15 SALVAGED THE NORTH KOREAN INFILTRATION BOAT WHICH WAS SUNK APRIL 28 OFF THE SOUTH COAST OF KOREA. THE SALVAGE REMAINS WERE TAKEN TO THE MAIN ROKN BASE AT CHINHAE, WHENCE THEY MAY LATER BE MOVED TO SEOUL FOR FURTHER EXAMINATION AND ANALYSIS.

2. UN COMMAND'S ARMISTICE AFFAIRS DIVISION (AAD) ON MAY 16 AT 1630 CALLED FOR MEETING OF THE MILITARY ARMISTICE COMMISSION (MAC) ON MAY 20 AT WHICH THE CHARGES OR ARMISTICE VIOLATION PRESENTED AT THE MAY 11 MEETING WILL BE REPEATED. THE FACT OF THE BOAT'S RECOVERY, BACKED BY A DISPLAY OF SALVAGED ARITIFACTS, WILL BE PRESENTED IN SUBSTANTIATION OF THE CLAIM THAT THE INTRUDER WAS IRREFUTABLY A NORTH KOREAN INFILTRATION BOAT.

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3. RECOVERED FROM 125' IN REMARKABLY INTACT CONDITION, THE WRECKAGE CONSISTS OF A 10-METER HULL APP. 3.5 METERS AT THE BEAM. POWERED BY THREE BELGIAN-MADE 125 HP ENGINES AND ARMED WITH TWO ROCKET LAUNCHERS MOUNTED WITH MOVABLE BRACKETS WHICH ALLOWED THEM TO BE EITHER CONCEALED INSIDE THE GUNWALES OR HUNG OVER THE SIDE FOR FIRING. OTHER WEAPONS FOUND INCLUDE ONE AK-47 WITH NK MARKINGS

AND A TYPE 68 PISTOL WITH SEVERAL ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION. ADDITIONAL ITEMS INCLUDED FIELD RADIOS, FIELD RATIONS, COMMON FIELD GER, A LARGE QUANTITY OF BOTH COLD-AND WARM-WEATHER CLOTHING, NAVIGATIONAL CHARTS WITH NORTH KOREAN PRINTER'S MARKINGS, A VARIETY OF COMMON MARINE HARDWARE, AND A 500 MM TELESCOPIC CAMERA LENS. MOST OF THE ITEMS ARE IDENTIFIABLY NORTH KOREAN IN ORIGIN. UNC HAS NOT DECIDED YET WHICH ARTICLES TO DISPLAY AT THE PANMUNJON MEETING.

4. WHILE THE OTHER SIDE IS EXPECTED TO REPLY WITH ITS USUAL EVASION OF THE ISSUE AND DENIAL OF CHARGES, UNC NEVERTHELESS PEFERS TO PRESENT THE EVIDENCE WITHOUT FOREWARNING AND THUS IS KEEPING THE SUCCESSFUL RECOVERY UNDER WRAPS UNTIL A MAC MEETING CAN BE CALLED. THE DATE FOR A MEETING HAS NOT YET BEEN SET, PENDING A RESPONSE FROM THE NORTH TO THE UNC MAC MEETING REQUEST. SNEIDER

NOTE BY OCT: MESSAGE DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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